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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,612	05/08/2006	Yoshihiko Koizumi	290837US3PCT	3452
22850 7590 03/12/2009 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
CHAN, KAWING				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2837				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/12/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/578,612

Applicant(s)

KOIZUMI ET AL.

Examiner

Kawing Chan

Art Unit

2837

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05/08/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 05/08/06 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Deplazes (WO 03/080495 A1) (hereinafter all the rejections in the following are based on the equivalent English translation Deplazes US 2005/0034931 A1).

In Re claim 1, Deplazes discloses an elevator interlock apparatus (18) comprising:

- A catch (31) disposed on a landing entrance (Paragraph [0035]);
- A latch (18, 28, 52) disposed on a landing door (11) (Figures 1-2; Paragraph [0034]) so as to engage with the catch (31) and prevent movement of the landing door (11) is in a fully-closed state (Paragraph [0035]); and

- A release detector (15, 54, 55) for detecting whether or not the latch (18, 28, 52) is in a position engaged with the catch (31) by detecting a change in a magnetic field without contacting the latch (18, 28, 52) (Figures 2 & 4; Paragraphs [0025, 0027, 0028, 0041]).

In Re claim 2, Deplazes discloses an elevator interlock apparatus (18) further comprising:

- A detected portion (19, 59) constituted by a magnet (Paragraph [0041]) is disposed on the latch (18, 52); and
- The release detector (15, 54, 55) has a detecting portion composed of an electrically-conductive material facing the detected portion (19, 59) and detects the change in the magnetic field by means of an electric current generated in the detecting portion (Figures 2 & 4; Paragraphs [0040, 0041, 0047]).

In Re claim 3, Deplazes discloses a control portion (16) that determines a state of the latch (18) based on signal from the release detector (15, 19) and controls motion of a car (12) (Paragraph [0027]).

In Re claim 4, Deplazes discloses an elevator interlock apparatus (18) further comprising:

- A fully-closed-state detector (15, 19) for detecting whether the landing door (11) is in the fully-closed state (Paragraphs [0027, 0028]);

- The control portion (16) prohibiting motion of the car if it is determined that the landing door is in an open state and engagement between the catch and the latch has been released (Paragraph [0028]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deplazes (WO 03/080495 A1) (hereinafter all the rejections in the following are based on the equivalent English translation Deplazes US 2005/0034931 A1) in view of JP 2002-154774 (hereinafter called as JP).

In Re claim 5, Deplazes has been discussed above, but it fails to disclose the control portion permits motion of the car if it is determined that the landing door is in a fully-closed state even if it is determined that engagement between the catch and the latch has been released.

However, with reference to Figures 1-2, JP discloses an elevator system comprises 1st detection means (6) & 3rd detection means (7) for detecting the door lock engagement of the shaft door and the car door respectively, and 2nd detection means for detecting the fully-closed state of both the doors (Claim 1; Paragraphs [0009, 0010, 0017]), wherein JP further discloses the elevator is operable with only one detection

means is properly working (Paragraph [0022]), therefore, the elevator would operate normally even one of the detection means abnormal state of the elevator door.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have modified the teachings of Deplazes with the teachings of JP, since it is known in the art to utilize multiple sensors to detect the state of an elevator door so that the operation of the elevator, shaft door and elevator door can be closely monitored.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Lelic et al., Nagel, Vecchiotti et al., Bozorgzadeh et al. and Kutz are further cited to show related teachings in the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kawing Chan whose telephone number is (571)270-3909. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Walter Benson can be reached on 571-272-2227. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BENTSU RO/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2837

Kawing Chan
Examiner
Art Unit 2837